

A wide-angle photograph of a young tree nursery. The ground is covered in green grass and low-lying plants. Numerous young saplings are planted in neat rows, each protected by a white, cylindrical tube. The background shows a line of trees under a clear blue sky.

Volunteering at Langley Vale

Your guide to getting involved



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Welcome to Langley Vale

Thank you for supporting our First World War Centenary Woods project to create a special place to pay tribute to all those involved in the First World War.

In 2014 we acquired 640 acres of farm land and woodland at Langley Vale south of Epsom, Surrey. Since then we have been engaging with the local community and other leading environmental organisations to gather opinions and complete detailed site surveys which will shape our plans for this important conservation site.

With the support of volunteers over the coming four years we will be planting tens of thousands of native trees here, restoring chalk grasslands, managing for rare arable plants, planting wild flowers, and opening up new paths and trails for walkers, horse riders and cyclists to explore this beautiful location.

With your help we have already held fundraising events, involved nearly 1000 school children and local residents in planting 10,000 trees and coppicing a small section of the ancient woodland. We have also engaged with local interest groups including the Epsom Camera Club, Lower Mole Countryside Project, Surrey Wildlife Trust, Headley Court and the Cadets.

As the project progresses there will be more planting and coppicing to be involved in, as well as lots of other volunteering opportunities described in this pack. We will be advertising most of these once we have established a car park and public access to the site from Summer 2016.

This guide summarises our vision for volunteering opportunities in 2015 and beyond.



Your Wood Needs You!



We'll be planting 200,000 native trees, including beech, rowan, hawthorn and oak and creating carpets of striking wildflowers. Our vision for the Langley Vale is to transform it into a peaceful place with natural habitats for lapwings, dormice, and many other plants, insects and mammals.

And we want you to be a part of making this a reality.

Over the next four years and beyond we envisage volunteers being involved in a number of activities described in this pack, including:

- Engaging with the local community, schools and media
- Film making and photography
- Supporting conservation management and monitoring
- Joining work parties to plant trees and hedgerows, coppicing and assist with site maintenance
- Creating artwork, sculptures and features
- Supporting events, guided walks, tours and rides
- Helping raise funds and enlist new members and volunteers

To help co-ordinate volunteer activities we will also be looking to establish a **Friends of Langley Vale Supporter Group** by the Summer 2016, organised by and made up of local people.

Work Parties

At other Woodland Trust sites volunteers are already helping us organise and run regular work parties. We'd like to have similar activities at Langley Vale, which as the site develops will include:

- Pruning and coppicing trees
- Planting trees and hedgerows, and managing newly planted areas
- Hedge laying
- Managing invasive species and clearing vegetation
- Collecting seeds and propagating new trees
- Planting and maintenance of wild flowers and grasslands
- Fabricating gates, signs, finger posts and tree boxes
- Installing and repairing fencing, gates and stiles
- Constructing and maintaining roads, tracks and paths
- Undertaking warden duties, patrolling the site, and livestock monitoring

Work parties are great fun, provide opportunities to meet new friends and acquire new skills. Activity will take place as follows:

Activity	Dates
Coppicing at Little Hurst and Great Hurst Woods	Nov15 – Feb 16
Helping with public tree planting events and site maintenance	Dec 16 – Feb 16 Dec 16 – Feb 17
Collecting seeds from ancient trees on site and starting a tree nursery	Nov 16 – Apr 17



Conservation

As farming is gradually phased out at Langley Vale, and our tree and scrub planting and grassland restoration gather pace, we expect to see a significant increase in rare plants and wildlife.

One of our first volunteer activities will be to form a conservation group who can help us monitor the rare arable plants and protected species on the site.

From 2015 we will be inviting volunteers and local interest groups to help us establish a conservation monitoring programme to:

- Undertake biological surveying, and ecology and wildlife monitoring
- Complete sapling survival surveys
- Continue our research into local archaeology
- And in years to come we will look for volunteers to lead history, archaeology, wildlife and nature walks

Activity	Date
Conservation volunteers recruited	May/June 2015
Commence monitoring of priority species including arable plants	June 2015
Recruit guided walk leaders and organise guided walks	2017 onwards (once paths are installed on the site)



On The Move Already



Local history, archaeology and ancestry

We've uncovered lots of interesting history at Langley Vale already. There has been a farm at Langley Vale since the early 13th century. Kitchener inspected troops nearby in 1915 and British recruits used Gas School Wood for training. We've been working with Bourne Hall Museum and two local volunteers to **research** the history of the wood to inform our on site interpretation and once our ecological surveys are completed, we will be looking to involve more of the local community in potential **archaeology** surveys from 2016.

Fundraising

With your help and support we are confident of raising the remaining £6 million we need over the next five years to fulfil our vision for Langley Vale. We have recently recruited a **volunteer speaker** for local events, introducing us to potential donors and organising collections. We may need another volunteer speaker in 2015 depending on local demand for talks. Last year a local volunteer organised a fantastic fun day at the Sutton and Epsom Rugby Club raising over £500 and Cadets have been out in force for us at Epsom races. If you'd like to run an event to **fundraise for Langley Vale** we'd love to hear from you..



Photography, film making and communications

Volunteers from Epsom Camera Club have already taken some fantastic photographs at our recent planting days and we look forward to their coverage of future events. With them, we've also started a fixed point **photography** programme on site so we can track the changes as the site develops over the next ten years. We'd love to enhance this activity with some volunteer **filmmakers** as well. As the project progresses there will also be some roles for **communications volunteers**, to help us communicate news and updates from the Friends of Langley Vale to the wider community.

Thank you



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To find out more about the volunteering opportunities mentioned in this pack please email: volunteering@woodlandtrust.org.uk

If you have already registered an interest we will email you to advise when vacancies will be posted

Life's better with trees

The Woodland Trust is the UK's leading woodland conservation charity

Our vision is a UK rich in native woods and trees, enjoyed and valued by everyone

Established in 1972, we aim to create, protect and restore native woodland for the benefit of the environment, wildlife and communities

We achieve this through our own estate and working with other landowners

We have a fantastic and committed network of support, including over 225,000 members, and many more individual supporters, companies and foundations

We are highly respected in our sector, and an influential voice in Government

The Centenary Woods Project is our most ambitious woodland creation project to date. In four years each nation in the UK will have a new Centenary Wood – an amazing legacy for the future and a thank you to the past, a place we can all visit and enjoy

With your help we'll never forget those who ensured our tomorrow

